

Report

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20330



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Major General Samuel V. Wilson
Deputy Director, Central Intelligence
For Intelligence Community
Washington, DC 20505

Dear General Wilson

The Philosophical Heritage of V. I. Lenin and Problems of Contemporary War is the fifth and latest volume in the Air Force Soviet Military Thought series. The book, originally published in 1972 by the Military Publishing House (Voyenizdat), was a Frunze Prize winner in 1973 and is recommended reading for Soviet officers, generals and admirals.

The book was written by a "collective" of authors, including many of the USSR's most outstanding politico-military spokesmen. This volume provides valuable insights into Soviet perceptions of numerous issues that should be useful to those readers who are interested in matters of arms control and force reductions. Additionally, the authors discuss such other diverse topics as the role of ideological struggle in modern warfare, the scientific-technical base of the Armed Forces, troop training and troop control as well as the nature and importance of civil defense.

This volume is the result of our most recent efforts to make significant Soviet military writings available in the public domain. I believe that this book contributes substantially to our awareness of current Soviet military doctrine, and I trust that you will find it to be a worthy successor to those volumes which preceded it.

Warmest regards

George J. Keegan Jr.
GEORGE J. KEEGAN, Jr.
Major General, USAF
ACS/Intelligence

THE PHILOSOPHICAL HERITAGE OF V. I. LENIN
AND PROBLEMS OF CONTEMPORARY WAR
(A SOVIET VIEW)

This volume, the fifth in the "Soviet Military Thought" series to be translated and published under the auspices of the United States Air Force, was originally published in 1972 by the Military Publishing House (Voyenizdat) of the Soviet Ministry of Defense.

The book, a 1973 Frunze Prize winner, was written by a "collective" of authors, including several of the Soviet Union's most outstanding politico-military spokesmen, such as General-Major A. S. Milovidov and Colonels V. M. Bondarenko, T. R. Kondratkov and Ye. I. Rybkin.

In this work the authors have attempted to examine a few of the philosophical problems of war and peace and military force development in view of the radical transformations which are occurring in Soviet military affairs. This, the authors state, is occasioned by the necessity for comprehensive application by military personnel of scientific achievements in military affairs and for insuring a truly scientific approach to the command and control of troops. The book also attempts to depict the involvement of the Communist Party in developing and implementing military policy.

Chapters I thru IV discuss the Leninist conception of the essence and nature of war and apply this to the contemporary world scene.

Chapters V thru X are concerned with the development of the Soviet Armed Forces and their continuing efforts to improve combat readiness.

Chapters XI thru XVI address troop training, the role of ideological struggle in modern warfare, military organizational development, the nature and importance of Soviet civil defense, and scientific foresight and creativity as it applies to military affairs.